

LITTLE BLUE BOOK NO. 56
Edited by E. Haldeman-Julius

A Dictionary of American Slang

**Clement Wood and
Gloria Goddard**

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**HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY
GIRARD, KANSAS**

A DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN SLANG

A.

A-1. First class.

absotively. Absolutely and positively.

ace. An airplane adept; an artist in any line.

acknowledge the corn. Admit responsibility for.

ad. Advertisement; hence ad club.

Adam's ale. Water.

African golf. The game of craps or dice.

Alibi Ike. One who excuses all his faults.

all in. Exhausted.

all to the good, the mustard, etc. Excellent.

almighty dollar. Money, the god of America.

also ran. A loser.

altogether, in the. Nude, naked.

ambulance-chaser. A shyster lawyer who goes after injured people to solicit their damage suits.

amuck, to run. To behave crazily.

Ananias Club, member of the. A liar; anyone who differed with Theodore Roosevelt.

angora, to get one's. To discomfit or rattle one.

anvil chorus. A chorus of knockers or depreciators.

angel. Man who finances a theatrical or other venture, usually for no angelic reason.

animated ivories or cubes. Dice.

apple sauce. Blah, tripe, nonsense, foolish talk.

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apple strudel. Concentrated apple sauce.
Arkansas toothpick. A sheath or bowie knife.
ass. A fool.
atta boy, atta girl. That's the boy; that's the girl.
attic. Empty part of a house; hence head, upper story.
automat. A nickel-in-the-slot restaurant.
awfully. Very much.

B.

Babbitt. Typical mediocre-brained middle class American, realtor or otherwise.
baby, baby doll. One's sweetheart.
back-scratcher. One who praises you for your praise of him, her or it.
bad egg, bad penny, etc. A good-for-naught.
bad, go to the. Attend Sunday movies, dance, or otherwise offend the Rotary Methodist god.
bad, to the. Having suffered loss.
baggage smasher. Hotel porter who handles trunks.
bag, to hold the. To be left responsible while others escape.
bald-headed row. Front row at a girlie leg show.
balled up, all. Confused.
bamboozle. Obtain by trickery.
ball, to play. Go ahead.
bang the ivories. Play the piano.
bang-up. First rate.
barber shop chord. Male quartette harmony; barbarous music.
barge. Walk along.

Barleycorn, John. Spirit of alcohol, exiled by Volstead.

barn-stormer. Strolling player.

Barnumize. To advertise in high-falutin' language.

battle royal. Indiscriminate boxing match of three or more.

batty, bats in the belfry. Crazy.

beak, beagle. Nose.

beans, not to know. To know nothing.

bean-eater. Bostonian.

bear, she's a. She's a wow, a wonder.

bear. One who speculated for a fall in stocks; opposite of bull.

beat. In journalism, precedence in news; a scoop.

beat it. Clear away; vamoose; depart.

beat around the bush. To dodge the issue.

beats the devil, the Dutch. Beats everything.

beau, beau-lover. Suitor, lover.

bedbug. An amorous or uxorious person.

bee in one's bonnet. To be obsessed with an idea.

beer, small. Anything unimportant.

believe me. Expletive, "This is true."

bellyache. Complain all the time.

belly-bumper, -buster, or -whopper. Small hand sled used for coasting, lying on one's stomach.

bellywash. Soft drink, soda water, etc.

benzine buggy. Automobile.

bet, you. Absolutely. Also *bet your boots, last dollar.*

better half. What a man calls his wife in her presence.

biff. A blow.

- big burg, big town.* A city.
- big drink.* The Mississippi; any ocean.
- big head, to have a.* To be conceited.
- big mouth.* A noisy, bragging person.
- big stiff, big cheese.* Anyone who disagrees with you.
- big pond or puddle.* The Atlantic Ocean.
- bilge.* Bunk, blah, flapdoodle, nonsense.
- bird.* A young girl; anything attractive.
- birthday suit.* Nature's garb; nudity.
- bit.* United States money equivalent to 12½c.
- bite the dust.* Be slain.
- Black Hand.* A Spanish, Italian or Sicilian secret society of criminals.
- Black Maria.* The calaboose, police wagon to take criminals to jail or station house.
- blah.* Bunk, nonsense, spreadeagle talk.
- blarney.* Wheedling flattery; pretty talk.
- blazes, like.* Violently, impetuously (from flames of hell).
- blazes, go to.* Go to hell.
- bleed, to.* To victimize, extort money from.
- blimp.* Any non-rigid balloon.
- blind tiger, blind pig.* Illegal liquor retailery.
- blink, on the.* On the fritz; no good.
- bloated aristocrat, bloated bondholder.*
Wealthy person.
- blockhead.* Dunce, fool.
- bloody shirt, to wave the.* To stir up political strife.
- blow.* To boast or brag.
- blow one's own horn.* To praise oneself.
- blow in.* Come in unexpectedly.
- blow-out.* Feast, spread; puncture, as of auto tire.

blue funk. Nervous apprehension or agitation.

blue in the face. Aghast with amazement or fear.

blue laws. Severe Puritanic laws.

blue moon, once in a. Hardly ever.

blue pencil, to. To edit.

blues. Depression; a jazz or ragtime tune.

blue-stocking. A Puritan, one holier-than-thou.

blue-sky laws. Laws concerning corporations so loose that everything gets through; the sky's the limit.

bluff, to call a. To call for a show-down.

bluff. Bragging, assertion without foundation.

blurb. Printed praise, usually excessive.

bob. To cut the hair short.

bogus. Spurious, sham.

Bohemian. Artistic, as life in an artists' quarter.

boiled. Drunk, pickled, stewed, stewed to the gills, lit, illuminated, soused.

Bolsheviki, Bolshevik. Anything you disagree with, from Russian Communist policies to prohibition.

bonanza. A profitable investment; a lucky strike.

bone dry. No liquor available. BUT see *speakeasy, blind pig, blind tiger, bootleg, Rum Row, etc.*

bone, to pull a. To make a stupid mistake.

bones. Dice, the ivory cubes, the galloping dominoes.

bones, to make no bones about. To speak directly.

bonehead. A dull, stupid, or awkward fellow.

boob. A nut, senseless person.

- boodle.* Illegal gain or graft.
- bookleg.* To sell illegal and censored books.
- boom.* To advertise extensively; to puff.
- boom.* Inflated values, as in Florida and California real estate.
- boost.* To aid by pushing upward. Hence, booster.
- bootleg.* To sell illegal liquor.
- booze.* Alcoholic liquor.
- bosh.* Nonsense; twaddle.
- bosom fly.* A petter or necker; from "Let me to thy bosom fly."
- boss.* Master or employer.
- bottle.* The drinking habit.
- bounce, get the.* To be discharged from a job. Also, *get the sack.*
- bouncer.* One who throws out objectionable persons.
- Bourbon.* A stubborn conservative; old rye whiskey.
- bozo.* Person; a term of address.
- bowled over.* Put out of commission.
- bracer.* A stimulant, an alcoholic drink.
- brainstorm.* Sudden and violent cerebral disturbance; mental attitude of any rich criminal.
- brand-new.* Absolutely new.
- brass.* Bare-faced impudence.
- bread-and-butter.* One's living.
- break the ice.* To overcome diffidence on first meeting.
- breeches, to wear the.* To rule the house; said too frequently of women.
- brick.* A first rate person. Also "a regular orick."

- briny, the.* The sea or ocean.
- brodie.* To take a chance; from Steve Brodie's successful leap from Brooklyn Bridge.
- broke, clear, dead, or stone.* Penniless.
- bromide.* A commonplace bore; a stale jest.
- bruiser.* A boxer, or pugilist.
- buck.* A dandy; also, a dollar.
- buck up.* Be encouraged.
- buck the tiger.* Gamble, play against the bank.
- buck, pass the.* To shift responsibility.
- bucket shop.* A gambling den with faked dealing in stocks and bonds.
- bud.* A debutante.
- buddy.* Companion in arms; chum.
- buff.* The skin; hence, *In the buff.* Naked.
- bugs, go.* Go crazy.
- bug, a.* A fanatic; as, a radio bug.
- bugger-lugger.* A factory hand.
- bull.* Nonsense, exaggerated lies. Hence, *bull-thrower, treader, etc.*
- bull.* Stock speculator playing for a rise.
- bully.* Splendid; excellent.
- bullyrag.* To threaten, to scold.
- bum.* Hobo. Hence, *on the bum.* Ruined, broke.
- bum's rush.* Old method of ejecting bums from saloons.
- bump off.* To kill.
- bunco.* To swindle or rob. Hence, *bunco-game.*
- bunco-steerer.* A bunco man's decoy.
- bunk, buncombe.* Bosh.
- burbank.* To create a new hybrid plant or animal.
- bush league.* Second rate.
- bust.* A drunken revel, a spree.

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busy as a one-armed paper-hanger with the barber's itch. Very busy.

butter and egg man. Well-to-do mid-Western salesman in New York, playing with shebas and vamps; a sugar-coated papa.

buzz-wagon, buzz-buggy. An automobile.

B. V. D. A man's underclothing.

C.

caboodle. Aggregate, whole collection.

cadet. Pimp, pander, procurer; West Point undergraduate.

Cain, to raise. To raise hell.

cake-eater. A tea-hound, lounge-lizard, lady-bug.

call down. To reprove, to censure.

can it. Forget it. Hence, *can the chatter.*

Shut up.

canned music. Phonograph or radio music.

cannon-fodder. Soldiers.

canoodle. To bill and coo.

Canuck, Kanuck. A French Canadian.

Cape Cod turkey. Salted codfish.

cap, to set one's cap for. To try to vamp.

capital. Splendid, excellent.

captain of industry. A wholesale human wolf, who buries his bones in profitable investments.

card. A character; "He's a card."

carpet-bagger. A non-resident politician.

case. Queer or eccentric character.

cash in. Settle one's accounts.

cash in one's chips. To die.

cat's whiskers, cat's pajamas, cat's meow, elephant's fallen arches, snake's hips, etc.

Something excellent.

catch. An eligible unmarried man or girl.

catch-word. A popular phrase used to get votes.

cater-cornered. Placed corner-wise or diagonally.

catpaw. A tool or dupe.

caveman. Modern forcible wooer.

chair, the. The electric chair, for electrocution or a permanent wave.

chained lightning. White mule; southern mountain whiskey.

change. Loose money.

character. A person of striking peculiarities.

chaw up. To demolish utterly, smash.

cheek. Barefaced impudence.

cheese it. Beat it.

Chestnut. An old joke; the ark was cargoesd with them.

chicken. A broiler, flapper, young girl.

chip in. To contribute money to.

chocolate drop. A Negro.

chop-suey. Blah, applesauce, nonsense.

chorine. A chorus girl.

chump. A blockhead.

clam. A dumb or taciturn person.

claptrap. Cheap unworthy trick to get applause.

claret. In pugilistic slang, blood.

class, classy. Ritzy, elegant, swell, fashionable.

claw-hammer coat. Evening dress coat.

clay-eater, dirt-eater. Poor whites who eat clay.

clean, to get. To escape entirely.

clodhopper. A country jake, hick, jay, rube, etc.

cloven foot, to show the. To betray satanic character.

close. Stingy.

clover, to be in. To be well off.

cocky. Saucy, impertinent.

cocked hat, to knock into a. To knock out of shape.

coco, koko. Head, supposititious site of brains.

C. O. D. Cash on delivery; no credit.

co-ed. Girl or woman at a college for both sexes.

codfish aristocracy. Vulgar new-rich; fish-baron.

coin money. To prosper in business.

cold. Distant, frigid, unenthusiastic.

cold deck. Marked or stacked deck of cards.

cold water, to throw on. To discourage.

cold shoulder. Same as icy mitt; refusal of a lover.

collar, hot under the. To be angry.

come-uppance, to get one's. To get one's deserts.

confidence game; con-game. A trick for extorting money from the unwary. Hence, *con-man*, etc.

C. O. Conscientious objector.

coon. Negro, hence, *gone coon*. In a bad predicament.

cootie. Louse. Hence, *cuddle-cootie*. An affectionate person.

cop. Policeman.

corner the market, to. To monopolize the supply.

cotton, to. To stick closely to.

couch-beetle. Bedbug, amorous person.

counter-jumper. Salesman.

country. Hickville; rustic.

court-plaster. A wooer who sticks.

cow. An awkward waddling woman.

- cowpuncher.* A cowboy, a he-man.
- crab.* Grouch.
- crack a bottle.* Open a bottle of liquor.
- crack, a wise.* A near-bright remark.
- cracked.* Crazy.
- cracker.* Poor white, as in Georgia.
- crack up.* To praise highly.
- crank.* A person with a mental twist.
- craps.* Dice; African golf; Abyssinian polo; Congo croquet.
- crap-shooter.* One who plays craps; ivory-roller.
- crawl, to.* To wriggle out of a difficulty obsequiously.
- creeps.* Goose-flesh, cold shivers.
- crook.* A criminal, dishonest person. Hence, *to crook.*
- crow.* To exult in triumph.
- crush.* An affection for something or someone.
- cub.* A young reporter.
- cuckoo.* Crazy.
- cups, in his.* Drunk; spifflicated; stewed, pickled.
- cur.* A contemptible man.
- curb, on the.* Out in the street; said of curb-stone brokers, dealing in small securities.
- cuss.* A perverse or obstinate fellow; used affectionately also.
- cussedness, general.* General mischievousness.
- custard pie comedies.* Comedies in which the chief trick is throwing custard pies.
- cut, cut dead.* To snub socially.
- doll.* A doll, peach, attractive girl.
- catthroat.* A dealer in coal, landlord, etc.

D.

daddy. A middle-aged man attentive to a gold-digger.

dame. A woman, a girl.

daisy. A person or thing that is charming.

dampener. One or that which depresses.

dark horse. A candidate unmentioned before election.

darkey. Negro, especially the old-fashioned type.

day, call it a. Let's quit work.

daylight, letting through one. Shooting a person.

dead ringer for. Exact image of.

dead to the world. Unconscious; dead drunk.

deadbeat. A sponge, parasite, one who lives on others.

deadhead. A deadbeat, especially a theatrical one; one who has not paid for his ticket.
Empty bottle.

deb. A debutante.

D. T.'s. Delirium tremens.

demi-monde. A woman of questionable reputation.

demirep. A woman of doubtful chastity.

deuce. The devil.

devil. A printer's assistant; a gay fellow.

diamond, rough. An uncalcimined daddy; a rich man who eats peas with his knife.

dick. A policeman, detective.

dickens, the. The devil.

diff. Difference. "What's the diff?"

dig out. To leave suddenly.

dig in. To work hard.

- diggings.* A mine; a house.
dippy. Unnoodled; bughouse; crazy.
dirty linen. Family or political disgraces.
dished. To be cheated out of.
dive. A disreputable resort.
do. To swindle.
doo-dad. Thing-um-a-bob; what-dye-call-it.
do time. Serve in prison.
dodo. Fossil; antiquated specimen.
doggy. Ritzy, swell, stylish.
dog. Fellow.
dogs. Feet, shoes.
dolled up. Dressed up; dressed fit to kill.
doll. Baby, chicken, peach, attractive woman.
dope. A narcotic; hence dope-fiend, dope-joint,
 etc. The real facts.
double-cross. To judas; to betray.
dough. Money.
doughboy. American soldier in the World War.
doughnut. Money all around, nothing in the
 middle; a rich fool.
down 'and out. Utterly broke.
draw. To pull out one's pistol.
dress up. To play up or ornament a story.
dry. Supposedly free of alcoholic liquor.
dub. A mutt, a dud, a flat tire, a poor fish.
duck, lame. A Congressman failing reelection,
 and still serving his unexpired term.
dud. An unexploded shell; a failure; a pep-
 less person.
dude. One who follows "What Men Are Wear-
 ing" in the theater programs.
dude-wrangler. An Easterner cowpunching or
 ranching; a tenderfoot.
duds. Belongings; especially, clothes when
 worn.

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dumb. Stupid. Hence, *dumb-bell*, *dumb bunny*.

dump, to. To get rid of.

dump. A house; affectionately, as "a swell dump."

dust. Money.

Dutch treat. Each pays for his own.

E.

easy mark. Swindlefood; one easily tricked.

easy virtue. One to whom virtue comes hard.

egg. A man. Hence, *bad egg*, *hard-boiled egg*.

elegant. Dainty, fastidious.

elevated. Slightly drunk.

evil. Anything pleasant.

ex. Out of a job; as, ex-president, ex-bartender.

eye, black. A mark to one's discredit.

eye, my! Expletive of surprise.

F.

face, close your. Close your mouth.

fagot. A chorus man; an effeminate man.

fairy. An effeminate man.

fake. Anything prepared for deceiving.

faker. A street merchant, as of cheap jewelry; a college economist or sociologist; a statesman or patriot, preacher or doctor; a man.

fall for. To be gullible; to fall in love.

fall-guy. One who tries to sell gold bricks; one who takes the blame, while his accomplices escape.

fan. An enthusiast over some sport; from "fanatic."

fan. To club (police term).

fancy man. A woman's preferred lover.

- fathead.* Nincompoop; dumb bell.
Father of Waters. The Mississippi.
favorite son. Politicians popular at home, but a zero elsewhere.
fed up. Surfeited.
feed the fishes. To be seasick; to be drowned.
feed the press. To rush copy to press.
feeler. An experimental suggestion; fingers or hands.
fence. A receiver of stolen goods.
fence, on the. Undetermined.
fetching. Pleasing.
few, a. A good many.
fiddle-de-dee. Nonsense, applesauce, a case of tut-tut.
fiddlesticks. Nonsense, how absurd!
fifty-fifty. Half and half.
fight. A party; as, a tea-fight. Hence, *hen-fight.* Woman's party.
filibuster. A strategic move in Congress, to delay a bill or prevent passage.
finale-hopper. One who sticks to the last dance.
findings. Accessories; needles, pins, etc., in dressmaking.
fish, poor. Pepless creature.
fish-story. A lie; a cherry-tree tale.
fix. A mess.
fizzle. A failure.
flabbergast. To astound or stagger.
flame. One's beloved.
flapdoodle. Twaddle; nonsense.
flapper. God's masterpiece, or nature's; the modern bobbed-haired heart-bandit.
flat tire. A dud; a vimless person.
flier. A small investment, in stocks, as a gamble.

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flim-flam. To cheat or swindle, as by trickery.
fling. A sneer.

flip a coin. Toss a coin to decide a matter.

flivver. A Ford, tin lizzard, tin Lizzie, etc.

flirt with death or the undertaker. Run a big risk.

floater. A fraudulent voter.

flooey, to go. To flop, be spoiled.

flop. A failure.

flossy. Ritzy, swell, classy, elegant.

flu. The influenza or grippe.

fluke. An accidental lucky stroke.

flumadiddle. Humbug; flummery; nonsense.

flunk. To fail.

flunkey. A servant in livery.

four-flusher. A bluff; one who bets on four cards instead of five of a suit.

flush. Affluent; well monied; sugar-coated.

fluzie. A daughter of joy, a prostitute.

fly-by-night. A shady enterprise or person.

fly-up-the-creek. A capricious person.

fodder. Food.

fogy. Old-fashioned eccentric.

foozle. A poorly played stroke.

forty, all Like everything.

fossil. A dodo, mossback, antiquated person.

fox. To fool, cheat, play a joke on.

fory. Cunning.

frail. A woman.

free-for-all. A general fight; a battle royal.

free lance. A writer writing without advance assignment.

freeze on to. Take a tight hold of.

freeze out. To compel to retire or withdraw.

French leave. Omitted or informal leave-taking.

fresh. Presumptuous; bold; cheeky.

freshman. A first year man in college.

frills. Fancy accompaniments.

frisk. To search a person by going through his pockets.

fritz, on the. No good.

frump. A sour old maid; a prim old lady.

fry, small. Persons of no importance.

fuddled. Muddled; intoxicated.

fudge. Nonsense; to cheat (marbles); a kind of candy.

full. Drunk.

full 'of prunes. "You're crazy"; you're wrong.

funk. Fear; panic.

fuss. To confuse; also, to escort a girl.

G.

gabby. A simpleton.

gad, gadabout. One always visiting.

gag. A joke, hoax; an interpolated line in a play.

gall. Confidence, audacity, assurance.

gallinipper. A large mosquito.

gallivant. To play the gallant to the opposite sex.

gallows-bird. An abandoned criminal.

gallowses, galluses. Suspenders.

galoot. An awkward person.

game. A trick, a deceitful method.

game, to be. To be a good sport, willing to take a chance. Hence, *die game*.

gang. A group of persons for any purpose.

gangster. Member of a criminal gang.

garret. The head. Garrets, empty at first, are used to store worthless trifles of nonsense.

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gas. Vain or boastful talk.

gas-house district. District in city unsuitable for living; abode of gangsters.

gawk. A simpleton of either sex.

gay, a gay woman. One happy; one unchaste.

geezer, old. Antique bozo; a dodo; an old dud.

gentle sex. Satirically applied to women.

getaway. An escape.

gibble-gabble, mulligatawny. Foolish talk.

giddy. Wanton, flighty.

gills, pickled to the. Soused; drunk.

gilt-edged. Of the highest grade; as, gilt-edged Nordic Rotarian virginity.

girlie. A shemale, a girl.

gimcrack. A showy, useless trifle.

gink. A person.

gizzard. Guts; pluck; one's insides.

give 'em the gate. Bounce, reject.

Glorious Fourth. Independence Day, July 4, 1776; still fourth—try and see how independent.

go-by, give the. Reject.

go to it. Go ahead.

go to the bad. Become evil.

go to the wall. Fail, as in business.

go, on the. Continually going to parties, etc.

go-getter. A hustler in business.

go, a pretty, a rum go, etc. A turn of affairs.

goat, get one's. To fuss or disconcert one.

goat, to ride the. To be initiated into a secret order.

gob. Sailor in the United States navy.

god. One who sits in the top gallery of a theater; a deity.

God's footstool. The earth. (But see contrary

opinion, "Protest by Florida Chambers of Commerce.")

gold digger. A jewel coxer; a vamp; a girl or woman who accepts a man's attention for the sake of his gifts.

goner. Past recovery; utterly doomed.

gonof, gonoph. Pickpocket; expert thief.

goof, goofus. Dumbbell; silly person.

goods, the. The thing bargained for; a fine thing, or person.

Good night! You don't say so! An expletive.

goose-egg. The figure 0, naught.

gospel. Anything received as true.

gouge. To extort excessive profits in industry.

goy. One not a Jew.

grab-game. Rapacious procedure in politics, etc.

graft. Illegal profit through political pull. Hence, *grafter*.

grass-widow. Woman divorced or abandoned by her husband.

Greaser. A Mexican.

great unwashed. The rabble.

green, long. Money, greenbacks.

green-goods. Counterfeit money. Hence *green-goods-man*.

greenhorn. An inexperienced person.

grill. To cross-examine.

gringo. A foreigner; one who cannot speak Spanish.

grub-stake. To supply with food and necessities, in return for a share of profits; such supplies.

Grundy, Mrs. Middle-class propriety.

gunman. Hired assassin; soldier.

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gush. Extravagant talk or display of affection.

guts. Pluck.

guy. Quaintly addressed person; any person:
"He's the guy."

H.

hack. One to be had for hire; as, a hack-writer.

half-baked. Simple minded.

half-cocked. To go off hastily.

half-seas-over. Half-drunk.

ham actor. A poor actor.

hand, give 'em a. Give them applause.

handle. Title, name.

hank. Handkerchief.

happy. Drunk and merry.

hard-boiled. Sophisticated; cruel.

hard up. Broke, impoverished.

hash-house. Cheap boarding house.

hash-slinger. Waitress in a hash house.

has-been. One whose best days are over.

hay, hit the. Go to sleep.

hayseed. Rustic, hick.

head, swelled. Conceited.

head over heels. Entirely; as, in love.

heart, have a. Take pity; go easy.

Heavens! Formerly, god's residence; now,
"You don't say so," an expletive.

heeler. A political follower; ward-heeler.

he-man. Westerner, man with hair on chest.

hen. A woman.

het up. Excited, angry.

hick. Countryman.

highbrow. Person judging himself of high mentality.

high horse, on the. Supercilious.

high flier, high roller, high stepper. A sport; fast liver.

high hat. Up stage, snobbish.

highfalutin'. High flown manner or speech.

highjack. To rob from a thief or bootlegger.

hinges, off one's. Crazy.

hit. A successful play; any success.

hobo. Shiftless worker or tramp.

hock. To pawn.

hokum. Bunk; trick of actor, politician or clergyman to get applause.

home, nobody. Crazy.

home-brew. Liquor, malt or otherwise, made at home.

Honest Indian or Injun. In very truth.

honey. Sweetheart, darling.

honor, a nation's. Any alleged cause of war.

hootch. Contraband alcoholic beverage, home-brew.

hoodlum. A rowdy, rough, larrikin, street loafer.

hoof it. Walk it, beat it, depart.

hooligan. Tramp.

hook. To swipe or steal.

hook, get the, or give him the. Remove him; he's punk.

horse, a. A joke at one's expense.

hot as they make 'em. Reckless, careless.

Hotdog. A sausage supposed to be half beef and half pork. Also an expletive, like "Oh, boy!"

hotsy-totsy, tootsie-wootsie. A girl all to the mustard, all O. K.

hound, (as in booze-hound, smut-hound, etc.)
One fond of a thing.

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house, disorderly. A prostitution house, especially an orderly one.

house of call. Bawdy house with women living outside.

House of Representatives. Lower house of Congress, supposed to represent those they represent.

Hub, the. Boston.

huff, to take. To take offense.

hugger-mugger. Secret, sly, underhand.

hum, make things. To do with energy.

humbug. To impose upon; a fake, cheat, sham.

hump, to have the. To be despondent.

hunky. A laborer (from Hungarian).

hunkydory. Satisfactory, all right.

hush-money. A bribe to prevent disclosure of some disgrace.

hustle. To be quick.

hustler. A go-getter.

L

ice, on. In reserve.

illuminated. Lit, drunk.

Indian giver. One who takes back a gift.

Indian file. Single file.

in for it. Committed to a course.

ins and outs. Details or ramifications.

ins, the. The party in power.

inside track. Point or place of vantage, a short cut to success.

inspired. Editorial tone or policy, from a source outside the paper's ownership or management.

in with. Friendly with.

I. O. U. Acknowledgement of a debt.

Irish up, to get one's. To lose one's temper.

Irish confetti. Bricks.

iron men. Dollars, money.

ish ka bibble. "I should worry," "I should be embarrassed."

ivories. The teeth; dice; piano keys; billiard balls.

izzum-wizzum. Hotsy-totsy; red-hot sweetie.

J.

jabber. Chatter, unintelligible speech.

jack. Money; a sailor.

jackass. Stupid person, blunderhead; a Democrat.

jack-leg lawyer. A pettifogging lawyer; shyster.

jackpot. A corruption fund.

jag. State of intoxication, a load of drink.

jailbird. One confined in jail; a criminal.

jakes. A comfort station, privy.

jamboree. Spree, carousal, frolic.

Jane. A dame, woman, girl.

jawbreaker. A word hard to pronounce.

jay. A countryman, boob, greenhorn, rustic, bumpkin, yap, rube, Reuben, hick, Gopher Prairiedog.

jay-town. A country town inhabited by jays.

jay-walking. Cutting corners; crossing streets cater-cornered or midway of the block.

jazz. Modern ragtime music; pep.

jazz-baby. A cuddly cutie strong for a jazz life.

jazz-hound. A male jazz-baby.

jerkwater. Very rustic; as, jerkwater town.

jimmy or jemmy. A burglar's implement, similar to a crowbar.

Jericho, (to send one to.) Hell or Hoboken.

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Jezebel. Painted harlot. In Rotary, Baptist, and Methodist eyes, a woman who (1) dances, (2) smokes, or (3) goes to the theater.

jiff, jiffy. An instant of time.

jagamaree. Something for which there is no other name, or whose name is momentarily forgotten; a thingumbob, thingumajig, what-dye-call-it, jiggumbob, jiggalorum, whoozis.

jigger, not worth a. Worthless.

jigger, old. Lively old codger, able to jig.

jiggered, well I'll be. Exclamation of astonishment.

Jim-crow car. Street car or railway car where whites are segregated from Negroes. Hence Jim-crow laws, hotels, etc.

Jim-dandy. Fine as silk; very good.

jimjams. Peculiarities; delirium tremens.

jingo. A sanguinary war-promoter. Address in wartime: as far behind the trenches as possible.

jitney. A small coin, a nickel. Hence *jitney-bus, jit.*

jizzie. An unattractive or antique dame.

job, to. To swindle.

jobbery. Political graft or swindling.

jockey. To maneuver for favorable position.

John Bull. A red-nosed gentleman farmer, personifying England.

joint. A meeting place; a naughty resort.

joker. An innocent-looking clause slipped into a law to defeat its purpose, or permit an outside trick.

jolly, to. To spoof, make fun of.

Jonah. One who brings bad luck.

josh, to. To spoof, jolly, cajole, tease, banter.

joy-ride. A wild auto party, often in a stolen car.

jug. A jail.

jugful, not by a. Not by a good deal.

jump a claim. To take land illegally.

jump at. To grasp eagerly at.

junket. A picnic, feast, excursion; a political tour of inspection at public expense. See "wine, women and song."

jury-fixer. One who bribes jurymen, openly or subtly.

justice. Slang for what is obtained in legal courts.

K.

kale. Money.

keep it dark. Hold it secret.

keep one's eye peeled. Watch out.

kettle of fish, a nice. Ironical for an annoying situation.

kibitzer. Bystander at a game, bystanding critic.

kibosh, on the. On the blink or fritz; spoiled.

kick. Pleasure, enjoyment, thrill, alcoholic content.

kick in. Contribute your share; pay up.

kick the bucket, kick out. To die.

kicker. One who kicks, protests, rebels.

kid, to. To joke or deceive.

kiddy. A child.

kill, dressed to. Dressed bewitchingly.

killling. Overwhelming, bewitching; an overwhelming profit.

kind of, kind a, kinder. Rather, somewhat.

kink. King.

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kiss the dust. Be overthrown.

kitty. Pot or pool, in cards, to which all contribute.

kiyoodle. Dog.

knee high to a grasshopper. Low in height.

knife. To attack in politics secretly.

knock. To talk against a thing.

knock off. To quit work; kill.

knock out, K. O. To win by knocking pugilistic opponent unconscious; a complete success in anything.

knock the spots off of. To excel.

knock the stuffing out of. To put out of commission, beat up.

knock up against. Meet accidentally.

knockabout. Fit for rough wear, as a knockabout suit. A slapstick comedian. A roustabout, man of all work.

knocker. Habitual faultfinder.

know, in the. To be hep, to understand.

know the ropes, to. To be acquainted with the workings.

knuckle down to. To apply oneself to energetically.

knuckle under. To submit.

kosher. Permitted by or fulfilling the requirements of Mosaic law; said usually of food, opposed to "tref."

kowtow, kotow. Make obeisance to.

kudos. Glory, honor, renown, publicity; opposed to the cash.

L.

lady. Any woman, in her own opinion. Elevated in such usages as washlady, lady

- laundress*, *lady* of easy virtue.
- lady-killer*. A man supposed to fascinate women; sheik.
- lady-love*. Sweetheart.
- lallypaloozer*. A wow, knockout; also, a falsehood.
- lam*, *lambaste*. To beat, thrash, trounce, drub.
- lamb*. One who gets fleeced, as in dealing with stocks.
- lamp*, *lamps*. The eyes.
- lamp*. To see or notice.
- land*. To deliver or land home a blow.
- landslide*. An overwhelming victory, as in politics.
- large*, *at*. In general; as, a Congressman at large. Many still are. Also, uncaught, fugitive from justice.
- lark*. Spree, frolicsome adventure.
- larrup*. Beat, thrash, rope-end, flog.
- late unpleasantness*. The last war. Long used of the Civil War. In 200,000 A. D. it will be used of the most recent war.
- laugh*, *to get the laugh on*. Make the object of ridicule.
- lynch law*. Summary injustice meted out, especially to Negroes, Jews, Catholics, bootleggers, and strict Baptists and Methodists, in various Southern States.
- lay*, *to lay for*. Post oneself to do something to one.
- leak*. Unintended revelation of official secrets, usually scandalous.
- leave off*, *lay off*. Quit.
- leech*. Parasite, blood-sucker; pawn-broker; landlord; capitalist.

legs, on one's last. Dying.

legs, to get on one's hind. To get angry.

leg, shake a. Dance; hurry up.

legs, stretch your. Beat it, depart.

leg-show. Refined dancing and near-singing girlie show, patronized by successful bald-heads. Tights and other clothing were once worn in these.

lemon. Dud, flat tire, especially female.

let her go, let her rip. Let it continue.

let daylight into. To expose to the light.

let on. To pretend.

level, on the. On the square, honest and above-board.

lick. To beat or thrash.

lick and a promise. A slovenly bit of work.

lickspittle. Toady, sycophant.

lick the dust. To be defeated.

lie down. To give up, shirk, soldier on the job.

lie low. To lie concealed.

life-preserver. Pocket flask.

light-fingered. Thievish

light-weight One below the mental or moral average

limb. An impish child; in Baptist circles, a leg.

limb of the law. Policeman or lawyer.

line. A calling, stock of goods carried.

lines, hard. Bad luck.

line, get into. To adopt the same course as others, or persuade one to.

lingo. Language, language hard to understand.

lion. A celebrity, headliner.

lioness. A she-celebrity; a woman of note.

lionizing. Treating one as if he were a celebrity.

- lip*. Impudent or saucy speech. "None of your lip."
- lit*. Drunk.
- live-wire*. A person full of energy, pep, vim; a booster; a person trying to alter all down to his Rotary ideals.
- living spit, living image*. Exact image of.
- lizard* (as in *lounge-lizard*). One fond of, a habitue.
- loaf*. To idle, shirk, soldier on the job.
- loafer*. An idler.
- lobby*. To influence legislators; a group so employed.
- lobster*. A man easily imposed on; specifically, a butter-and-egg man gold-dug or jewel-coaxed.
- lock up*. Jail.
- loco*. Crazy, nuts, bugs, bughouse.
- loggerheads*. To oppose on a question; come to blows.
- log-rolling*. Back-scratching; a group who further each other's ends.
- long run*. Whole course or series of events.
- long sweetening*. Molasses, treacle; opposed to sugar, or short sweetening.
- long-winded*. Talky, talkative.
- look alive or sharp*. Be watchful.
- look or speak daggers*. Express hatred by words or mien.
- lookout*. Watchman placed by a group, as of thieves.
- loon*. An idiot.
- loony*. Crazy.
- loose*. Lax, as in morals; as, a loose woman.
- lord of creation*. Man's name for himself, as opposed to women and dumb beasts.

Lothario. A gallant, rake, libertine, sheik, Valentino.

loud. Showy and vulgar in dress and manners.

lousy. Replete with, as with money.

lowbrow. An average person; one who prefers the poetry of Eddie Guest.

low down. Vulgar.

lulu. A hummer, speedy girl, racer.

lummox. A stupid, clumsy fellow.

lump, in the. In its entirety.

lump it. To put up with, as from necessity.

lump sum. A sum collectively of many items.

M.

mad after. Greatly infatuated with.

mad, like. Furiously, recklessly; as, to drive like mad.

madwag. Punster.

mahogany, solid; ivory, solid. Lacking brains.

make a book. To accept bets, as in horseracing.

make a dead set. Try to influence by persistence.

make a face. Grimace.

make. To seduce; as, a woman says, "He tried to make me."

make it snappy. Hurry up.

make tracks. Be off in a hurry.

makings. Material for anything from a philosophy to a cigarette.

man of straw. One put forward as an irresponsible tool.

man, old. Husband, father, source of financial support.

map. Face.

Marathon. Endurance contest; as, a Charleston Marathon.

Marathon, Bible. Latest American indoor sport, in which both Testaments are read aloud in relays at breakneck speed, to the glory of God.

mare's nest. A discovery that looks important, then turns out to be a hoax.

mash, make a mash on. Affect another sexually.

masher. A professional fascinator of women.

maverick. An unbranded, unruly animal.

mazuma. Money.

mealy-mouthed. Overmild in fault-finding.

medicine, good or bad. Straight dope or the reverse.

mellow. Partly intoxicated; a negro spiritual.

member. A person; usually qualified by hot, warm, etc.

middleman. Purchaser from the producer, who makes his profit from consumer or retailer.

miff. A tantrum, petty quarrel. Hence, *miffed.* Angry.

milk-and-water. Namby-pamby, vacillating.

milksop. Spiritless or effeminate man or youth.

mill. A pugilistic contest.

mill, to go through the. To learn by hard experience.

mince matters. To affect extreme delicacy in speech.

mint. A vast store; as, mint of money.

minx. A forward, pert girl.

mischievous, the. The devil.

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missing link. Primitive form connecting man with the anthropoid apes, the *Pithecanthropus erectus* of Java; the Negro, in the eyes of Southern "thinkers"; an anti-evolutionist, a Bryan.

Missouri hummingbird. The mule.

Missouri, I'm from. You've got to show me.

mitten, to get the. To be rejected as a lover.

mittens, to handle without. To treat roughly.

mix-up. General confusion.

mollycoddle. Excessively effeminate person.

monkey. Mischievous child; to trifle or fool about.

moonshine. Visionary plan; illicit liquor.

mop up the earth, ground, or floor with. To thrash thoroughly.

moss-back. A fossil, dodo, conservative, stand-patter.

mothball, to put into. Can it, forget it.

mountain dew. Moonshine liquor.

mourning, in. Black eyes. Hence, *half mourning.* One black eye.

mouth, down in the. Depressed, dejected.

movie. Cinema, silver screen, motion pictures.

mucker. A coarse, vulgar person; a rotter, cad.

muckrake. To reveal scandal in politics and industry.

muckraker. One who muckrakes.

mudslinger. One who throws outrageous aspersions.

muff, to. To spoil a project.

mug. The face.

mug, to. To photograph, especially said of criminals.

mugwump. One who professes independence in politics.

mum. Chrysanthemum; silent.

mumbo-jumbo. Any popular god; demagog, charlatan.

mummer. Strolling player, actor.

mush. Soft, pulpy talk, especially love talk.

muss. Disturbance or fight; to soil or confuse.

mustard, all to the. All excellent.

mustard-plaster. One who clings when not wanted.

mutt. A bum sport, an unliked person.

mutton-head. A stupid, irascible man.

muzzle. To impose silence on.

N.

nag. To scold; a woman who scolds.

nail, coffin. A cigarette.

Nancy, Miss. An effeminate man.

nanny, get one's. To get one's goat.

napping, to catch one. To take one unawares.

nasty one in the eye. A telling blow.

nature-faker. A teller of untrue stories about nature, as of Santa Claus, the stork, the cherry tree, etc.

nature, in a state of. Unclothed, naked.

navvy. A ditch-digger, manual laborer.

neck, to. To pet, philander. use flirtage.

necking-party. A party of indiscriminate fondling.

neck, in the. In a dangerous spot.

necktie party. A hanging bee, a lynching.

needful, the. Money.

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nerve. Impudence, audacity; as, "What a nerve!"

N. G. No good.

nibble. To rise to a bait in trading.

nibs, his nibs. A person who exaggerates his importance.

nifty. A joke, a wise crack.

night-rider. A masked mounted night criminal.

nip. A small drink.

nix. No, not.

no chicken. Advanced in years.

no end. A great deal.

no flies on. Active and wide-awake.

no go. No use, impossible.

no kid. No deception, no joke. Hence, no kidding.

nob. The head; or, a swell, from "nobleman."

noddle, noodle. The head.

noodle-soup. Nonsense, applesauce.

noggin. The head.

nosebag, put on the. To feed one's face, eat.

note-shaver. Money lender, usurer, discounteer of notes. As, the Kaiser discounted Wilson's notes.

nothing to it. Of no consequence.

now then. Look out for the next thing.

nubbin. Anything dwarfed or imperfect.

number 1. Oneself.

numskull. Dunce, blockhead.

nut. Silly or eccentric person, lunatic.

nut, hard. A desperado, bad man.

atty. Completely unbalanced, crazy.

O.

oats, wild. Youthful follies; once exclusively masculine.

ocean greyhound. A fast ocean-plying ship.

oceans of. An undoubted amount of.

odds. Matters or conditions on an unequal basis, as the proportions of a wager.

odds, what's the. What's the difference?

off, gone off. Crazy.

off color. Unsatisfactory, open to suspicion.

off his nut, hinges, or trolley. Mentally unsound.

off the reel. Immediately.

off with you. Get out.

oil, to strike. To make a fortune suddenly.

O. K. Correct; to approve.

old. Used to convey affection, as in old bean, old boy, old chap, old dear, old fellow, old thing, old top.

old bird. A person of experience.

Old Gentleman, Old Harry, Old Nick. The devil.

on, to be. To understand a thing.

once over, O. O. A survey, a look entirely over.

one-horse. Paltry, inferior; as, a one-horse town.

open and shut. Must be accepted or rejected in its entirety.

open up. Talk up, speak out.

over, half seas. Half drunk.

own, on one's. By oneself, at one's own risk.

P.

packing, to send. To dismiss peremptorily.

pain, to give one a. To cause one annoyance.

paint the town red. Cause excitement; go on a spree.

palaver. Idle talk, flattery.

panhandle. To beg; hence panhandler.

pan, to. To knock, criticize adversely.

pan out. To produce, develop.

papa. Middle aged man who falls for gold-diggers, shebas, and vamps. Sugar-coated papa, one well to do.

pard, pardner. A partner.

park. To leave an auto in an open space. Used also of people: "Don't park in my parlor."

parson's nose. Rear end of cooked fowl; also called pope's nose, rabbi's nose, Darwin's nose.

party. An entertainment; amorous tumbling.

pass, to. To give way to the next person's word.

pass on, to. Christian Science euphemism for "to die." It has become general throughout these Rotaried States. Nobody has died since Christ; all the rest have "passed on."

paste. To strike a blow; "I'll paste you one in the bean."

pastorium. A pastor's house; a skypilot's bunk.

peach, peacherino. An attractive girl; anything nice or noticeable, as "a peach of a cold."

peach. To inform or tattle-tale upon. Hence, peacher.

peanut politics. Small, mean, underhand, or Congressional politics.

peanut. Small, insignificant thing or person.

peart. Fresh, joyous, as in "I feel right peart, Cal."

pecker. The mouth, the kisser; courage, as in "Keep your pecker up."

peevd. Angry, irritated.

peg away. To work at industriously.

peg out. To die.

pen. Penitentiary; a home fit only for hogs.

penny dreadful. A cheap sensational paper.

pep. Vim, vigor, energy.

perk up. Cheer up.

pernickety, persnickety. Contrary, difficult to please, pesky. Troublesome, vexatious.

peter out. To be exhausted, fail through anemia.

petticoat. A woman. Petticoats used to be articles of female attire; succeeded by camisoles, step-ins, combinations, teddy-bears, teddies, buff, etc.

pet, to. To excite by fondling; flirtage.

petting-party. A stimulating fondle.

phiz. Face, physiognomy.

pie-eyed. Drunk.

pickle. A plight, a predicament.

pickled. Drunk, soused, stewed to the upper gills.

pick-me-up. A stimulating beverage.

pick up. To scrape acquaintance with for erotic purposes.

piffle. Nonsense, twaddle, applesauce
rhubarb.

piker. A gambler in a small way; a slacker of one's share.

pill. A disagreeable person.

pinch, at a. In an emergency.

pip. A state of depression; a low card.

pipe this. Notice this.

pippin. A desired woman, a peacherino.

pirate. A landlord or industrial magnate; a thief of uncopyrighted literary material.

platonic love. Love Presbyterian on the surface.

play around with. Keep company with, pet.

plutonic love. (Censored by Pure Act and Deed Law.)

plucked, to be. To flunk an examination.

plug-hat. High silk hat.

plug. To boost a song. Hence, song-plugger.

plug-ugly. A tough, city ruffian, gangster.

plum. Public office in return for political service.

plum-tree, shake thee. Distribute political patronage.

plumb. Entirely; as, plumb nutty, plumb Christian.

plunge. To speculate recklessly.

poke fun. To joke, jest.

poky. Dull, spiritless.

polack. A Pole.

Polar bear. One who swims in cold winter.

polish off. To complete, defeat.

poor. A depreciating adjective, as in poor fish, one who lacks besom, pep, energy.

poor stick. One lacking initiative; a human puncture.

poor white trash. A 100 per cent free and unterrified Nordic financial and mental pauper in the Southern States, whose family never owned slaves. If a child of poor white trash becomes President, historians at once raise his ancestors to the aristocracy.

pop the question. To propose marriage; to dare conjugal shipwreck.

poppycock. Boastful nonsense; trifle; stale tripe.

pork. Gift or contribution to party funds; federal patronage.

pork barrel. An election fund; Congressional appropriation for patronage.

possum, to play. To pretend to be dead, to lie low.

positutely. Absolutely.

potato. A person; as in a big potato, small potatoes.

pow-wow. A meeting where talk and not business prevails.

pretty. Ironically used, as in "a pretty mess."

prex, prexy. Collegese for president.

prig. One assuming moral superiority. Hence priggishness, priggery, prigdom, etc.

primp, prink. To doll up, dress ostentatiously.

primrose path or way. Road to hell; anything pleasant.

prof. Professor.

profiteer. A substantial, well-to-do citizen, who gouges the public.

proud, to do oneself. To show to advantage.

prune. A lemon, flat tire; as in, poor prune.

puff. To blurb, praise unduly.

pull. Influence, advantage.

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pull off. To accomplish.

pull the strings, wires, ropes. Set in motion secretly.

pull up stakes. Strike camp; prepare to move.

pump. To question discreetly; extract facts from.

puppy. A vain, unmannered fool; a young person.

puritan. One scrupulous about the morals of others; one who holds that the pleasant is always wicked.

push. Vim, energy, pep; a crowd.

purp. A dog.

pussyfoot. To work by stealth and secretly.

Q.

Q. T., on the strict. Secretly, quietly.

quality. The upper classes, people of social position and public morals.

queen. A woman, especially a peach, a Sheba.

queer. Counterfeit money; crazy.

quit your kidding. Cease jesting.

quiz. A questioning, questionnaire.

R.

radical. One who believes in anything you disagree with; any person of intelligence.

rag. A woman; a piece of jazz music.

rag, to chew the. To talk incessantly about.

rags, glad. Best clothes; hallelujah garb.

ragtime. Jazz, modern dance music.

ragamuffin. A tattered vagabond.

raise a racket, the mischief, Cain, the devil, a row, a rumpus. Create a disturbance.

rake off. A share of profits, usually illegal.

rally. Political meeting to disseminate whole-sale blah.

rambunctious. Rude, noisy, turbulent.

rampage. A dashing about with violence.

rant. To be uproariously gay; to rage about.

rapscallion. A worthless rascal.

rare. Extraordinary; as in a rare good time, a rare 'un.

raspberry, razz, to give. To express disapproval.

rat. College freshman; vermin of the rodent family.

rattlebox, rattlebrain, rattlehead, rattlepate. Nobody at home; an empty-head.

rattle. To disturb self-possession, fluster, disconcert.

rattletrap. A chatterbox, talkative woman.

ratty. Despicable, worthless.

rave about. Express wild admiration for.

raw deal. Bad treatment.

razzle-dazzle. Giddy confusion or bewilderment; razz.

Red. A Communist, Socialist, Bolshevik, radical, prohibitionist, anti-prohibitionist, or member of any belief differing from yours.

red-eye. Cheap, strong whiskey.

red-hot. Extreme, passionate; as in "red hot mama."

redcap. Porter at a railway station.

redlight. Bawdy, harloty.

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- red tape.* Official formality and delay. Hence red tapeworm, a dilatory official.
- rib.* A woman, from the major surgical operation on Adam.
- ride him.* To kid, fool, make fun of him.
- ride for a fall.* Ride in a cocksure way to a tumble.
- right-O.* Annoying British expression of approval.
- rigmarole, rigamarole.* Rambling statement, nonsense.
- rile.* To stir to anger.
- rifle.* To steal thoroughly.
- ringer.* Political repeater.
- ring off.* Quit, stop.
- ringtailed roarer.* Braggart, blowhard.
- ripping.* Fine, exceptional, great.
- ritzy.* Swell, elegant, up-to-date, Junior League.
- roast.* Criticise severely.
- roost, gone to.* Retired for the night.
- root.* To work loudly for anything. Hence, rooter.
- rope in, to.* To entice or allure.
- rot.* Twaddle, nonsense, stewed prunes.
- rotter.* A cad, undesirable person.
- rough, rough-neck.* A tough, rowdy.
- roughhouse, to.* To create a disturbance.
- rubber.* To turn the head to see. "Lot's wife, before she turned to salt, turned to rubber."
- rubberneck.* Constant rubberer.
- rubberneck-wagon.* Sightseeing car.
- rube, Reuben.* Countryman, hick, jay.
- rum.* Odd, good, excellent, strong.
- rummy, rum-hound.* Soak, drinker, scofflaw.
- rumpus.* Noise, disturbance.

Rum Row. The liquor-laden fleet 12 miles out.
run after. To seek the company of.
run-down. Weakened or exhausted.
run in. To arrest, lock up.
running, out of the. Disqualified.
run across. To meet, encounter.
runt. A short or undersized man or woman.
rustle. Hurry up and provide; as "rustle out some food."
rustler. A cattle thief.

S.

sack, to give or get the. To be discharged from work.
sail in. Proceed boldly into.
Sam Hill. The devil, as in "What the Sam Hill!" Sam's father was Bunker Hill, shortened to Bunk Hill.
sand. Guts, grit, courage.
sap, saphead. A fool.
sawbones. A surgeon.
say-so. One's personal assertion.
scab. Strike-breaker, blackleg, non-union laborer.
scads. Money, resources, lots of.
scalp. To cut prices, as ticket-scalpers; to cheat.
scalawag. A good for nought; native Southern Republican during reconstruction.
scoot. Hurry or dart off quickly.
scorcher. A speed-bug, as in motoring.
scrape. Fight, scuffle.
scrape. Predicament, awkward position.

scrape acquaintance. Make friends casually.

Insinuate into intimacy.

scratch. Starting even.

scratch, up to. Entirely prepared, as promised.

scratch a ticket. To vote a mixed ticket, to vote for candidates of more than one party.

scratched. In horse-racing, a horse withdrawn.

screw. Wages, salary.

screws loose. Mentally unsound.

scrooge. To worm one's self forward, in a crowd.

scrub. Anything mean or paltry.

scrumptious. Fine, bully, splendid.

season, open or hunting; closed season. Periods when a thing may or may not be done.

seedy. Run to seed, shabby.

sell. A hoax, deception.

sell short. To sell securities as yet unpurchased, expecting to buy them later more cheaply.

send up. To send one to prison.

set up the crowd. Pay for all the drinks, etc.

shady side of, on the. To be more than; of one's age.

shake. To shake hands.

shake a leg, a limb, a hoof. Dance, or move more speedily.

shake-down. An enforced levy; extortion, blackmail; a rough Western dance.

shakes, in a couple of. In a minute.

shakes, no great. Of small importance.

shanks's mare. One's own legs. Hence, to ride shanks's mare. To walk.

shark. An expert; also a gouger, man-eater, as in loan-shark.

sharp practice. Hard bargaining, tricky dealing.

Sheba. A she-sheik, vamp, siren, seductress, queen, "the end of every man's desire."

shebang. The whole group.

sheepskin. College diploma. In American education, ranked far below the pigskin.

sheik. A he-Sheba, a romantic he-man, a cave-man lover.

shekels. Money.

shelf, laid on the. Laid aside.

shell game. A swindling game, consisting of guessing under which of three shells the pea is hidden. It is always under the other one.

shell out. To hand over or pay money.

shenanigan. Humbug, nonsense, trickery.

shifty. Untrustworthy, tricky.

shilly-shally. Undertermined, dallying.

shimmy. A dance accompanied by a shivery wriggle of arms and shoulders.

shindy, shindig. A row, disturbance, spree; originally a dance.

shine, to cut a. To make a display.

shinny up, shin up. Climb up by aid of the shins.

shinplaster. Originally any paper money; Continental U. S. paper money before 1789, "not worth a Continental," or worthless.

shirk. A slacker, a soldierer on the job.

shirt on, keep your. Don't lose your temper.

shoat, shote. A pig younger than a year; a worthless person.

shoddy. Cloth from shredded woolen rags; anything cheap, like campaign promises.

shoes, to die in one's. To die by violence.

shoestring, to start business on a. To start business on small capital.

shoot it. Go ahead.

shooting iron. A gun.

shop, to talk. To talk about one's own business.

shoplifter. A store thief. Hence, shoplifting.

shopping, window. To make the rounds of store windows without purchasing.

short. Hard up.

shot. Drunk. Hence, half-shot. Half-drunk.

shucks. As an expletive, "Nonsense!"

shut up. Can the chatter; elide the loquacity.

shy at, have a. Make an attempt to do.

shyster. A tricky lawyer or person.

sic a dog on. To encourage a dog to attack one.

side. Pretentious display; swank. Hence, to put on side.

side-light. Indirect information.

silly ass. Person given to frequent blundering.

silver screen. The movies, the cinema.

silver-tongued. Able to speak blah eloquently; used of the late Colonel Bryan of Florida real estate fame.

Simon pure. The genuine article.

simple. Weak of intellect.

sinews of war. Money.

sing small. To lower one's demand; eat humble pie.

sissy. An effeminate boy or man; a Miss Nancy.

sit up. To take notice.

sit tight. Wait quietly for the next move.

sixes and sevens, at. In confusion, dismay.

sixty, to go like. To travel fast. Also "like forty."

- skedaddle*. Scatter.
- skeet*. Skedaddle, scatter, depart.
- skeezicks*. A scamp, rascal, rogue.
- skidoo*. Beat it, depart, "23 for you."
- skimp*. To give a niggardly allowance of.
- skin*. To cheat; a cheater.
- skinflint*. Miser; said to be able to skin flint.
- skip*. To flee the country, make off quickly.
- skirt*. A girl, woman.
- skit*. A light, humorous literary parody or lampoon.
- skunk*. A disliked person; an opposing politician.
- sky*. To hang high, as pictures at an exhibition.
- sky-pilot*. Preacher, minister, pastor, priest, rabbi, a guide to eternal bliss and from eternal blisters.
- slam*. To find fault with continually.
- slang-whang*. To talk boisterously and abusively.
- slang-slinger*. Slang talker.
- slate*. Prepared political ticket to be O. K.'d by voters.
- slathers*. An abundance.
- slave-driver*. An exacting employer; an employer.
- slavocracy*. Slave-owners controlling the pre-secession South.
- sleep, to put to*. To knock out, as in boxing.
- sleeping partner*. A partner who takes no real part in the business; a secret partner.
- slick*. Smooth-tongued, oily.
- slick up*. To primp.
- sling ink*. To write profusely and carelessly.

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slip a cog. To make an error unconsciously.

slip up. To make a failure of; make a mistake.

stop over. To bubble over with enthusiasm;
spill affection over.

sloppy. Slovenly, inefficient.

slouch. A clumsy lout.

slouch, debutante. An affected shambling gait.

slow-coach. A sluggard, laggard, slow person.

slum. A squalid neighborhood; to visit slums
out of curiosity or sociological interest.

slump. A heavy fall in prices.

sly, on the. Secretly.

smack. To kiss.

small talk. Unimportant conversation.

smart. Bright, shrewd, intelligent.

smart Aleck. A cocksure, opinionated person.

smash. A break-up of any kind; to fail in busi-
ness.

smear. Utter success; a failure.

smell. A faint suggestion or hint.

smile, I should. I should say so.

smoke. A cigar; a negro.

smut. Indecency, obscenity. Hence, smutty, as
the story of Abishag, of Lot's daughters, of
the Levite's concubine, etc.

smut-hound. Vice investigator, enamored of
smut.

snag. A hidden or unexpected obstacle.

snail. A slow, lazy person.

snake. A habitue, used in parlor-snake, lounge-
snake, and the like. A hound, a lizard.

snakes, to see. To suffer from delirium tremens.

snap. Force, vigor, pep, vim, go.

snap out of it. Show some pep.

snap. Full of energy, smart, classy, ritzy.

- snappy, make it.* Hurry up.
- snap one's head off.* To speak angrily.
- sneakers or sneaks.* Soft-soled shoes.
- sneak-thief.* One who thieves through unfastened windows or doors.
- snickersnee.* A large knife.
- sniff, to.* To sniff cocaine.
- snippish, snippy.* Peevish, tart.
- snob.* A person affecting gentility in vulgar fashion; who snubs those below and lickspittles those above him.
- snoop.* To pry into another's affairs.
- snooze.* Sleep.
- snoot, sneezer, sniffer.* The nose.
- snort.* To laugh boisterously.
- snow.* Theatrical deadheads.
- snowbird.* A dope addict or narcotic fiend.
- snub.* To repress by a tart, sarcastic reply; to slight socially.
- snub-nose.* A slight nose turned up at the end.
- so, is that?* Expletive of doubt.
- soak.* A hard drinker; also, a pawnbroker's shop. Hence, in soak. In pawn, pawned.
- soap, soft.* Flattery.
- soap-box.* Portable platform for street speakers.
- sob-sister.* Woman who writes "human interest" stories, overburdened with sentimentality.
- sob stuff.* Printed matter to evoke weeps.
- sociable.* A dull evening party at a church.
- sockdolager.* A finishing blow.
- sock, to.* To hit a blow: as, "Sock on the sniffer."
- soft, softie.* Of weak intellect; simple.
- soft-snap or thing.* Easy to attain, sinecure.

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soldier. Loiter on the job; shirk.

solid, to be solid for. Wholeheartedly for.

solid ivory, mahogany, etc. Brainless, lacking gray matter.

some. Of considerable importance; as, "Some party!"

son of a gun. Affectionate term of address.

son of a female canine. An insult, unless said with a smile.

song. A matter of little consequence; except to Irving Berlin, et al.

sophomoric. Inflated style, from sophomore, a second year collegian.

sore. Pained, vexed, touchy, angry.

sorehead. A dissatisfied, discontented person.

sort of. To some extent.

sorts, of. Unsatisfactory, mediocre.

S. O. S. A call for help: "Save, Oh Save!"

So's your old man. An expletive, a snappy retort; used thus: "Thank you." "So's your old man!"

so-so. Fair to middling; mediocre.

sound. To approach, to try out, to fathom.

sour on. To become tired of, or bitter about.

souse. One who drinks to excess; to drink to excess.

sow. A woman not liked.

squirrel-food or feed. A nut, loon, simpleton, crazy person.

spank. A smart, sounding blow, usually-on the buttocks.

spark. To spoon or make love to a lover.

sparrowgrass. Asparagus.

snot. A petty quarrel, tiff.

- speakeasy*. A blind pig or tiger; illegal liquor purveyor.
- special*. Newspaper extra purporting to contain fresh news.
- speed*. Class, pep, ritziness, pace, go.
- spell*. An indefinite period; a turn of duty relieving another.
- spellbinder*. A popular orator or demagog, a blah tosser, a bull artist.
- spick and span*. Brand new.
- spicy*. Pungent, tart, risqué, racy.
- spiel, speel*. To talk longwindedly.
- spiffed, spiflicated*. Drunk.
- spill the beans*. To reveal a secret.
- spiffy*. Ritzy, classy, up to snuff.
- spitter*. Mouth, as in "a biff on the spitter."
- splash*. Dash, display.
- spliced, to be or get*. To get married.
- splurge*. Display; sensation; fuss.
- spoils*. Political patronage. Hence, spoilsman.
- spondulix*. Money.
- sponge*. Drunkard, hard drinker; to act as parasite.
- spoof*. A deception, swindle, hoax.
- spoon*. To flirt with, bill and coo. Hence spoony, to get spoons on.
- sport*. A cheap flashy person.
- sport, a good*. One who'll do what the party does; a woman operating under blue-sky laws.
- spout*. To talk voluminously; to emit blah.
- spout, up the*. Everything in a bad way.
- spread*. A meal, an elaborate meal.
- spread-eagle-ism*. Bombastic praise of this country.

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spunk. Courage, mettle, guts.

squab. A fat short person; a woman; a youngster.

square deal. Honest dealing; what people promise to do.

square. Satisfactory, honest.

square meal. A complete repast.

squatter. One who settles on land without right.

squeak. A hairbreadth; the least margin.

squeal. To betray a plot or accomplice; to inform.

squeeze. To compel to pay tribute to; to extort.

squirm. To escape by awkward evasion.

squirt. A brainless conceited person.

stag. A man without a woman at a dance.

stager, an old. An old egg, person of long experience.

stall. To evade in talk; to postpone a debt; stick in mud or snow.

star. One who plays a leading part.

steam-roller. Overrunning opposition by rough-house tactics.

steep. Exorbitant, expensive.

step out. To go out all dressed up.

step on the gas. Speed it.

step off. To get married.

stew. Mental disturbance. Hence stewed, stewed to the gills. Drunk.

stick, a poor. An unsatisfactory sweetie, a flat tire.

sticks, in the. In the backwoods.

stiff. A corpse; hence, big stiff, one you dislike.

stink. A disagreeable exposure.

stinker. A rotter, a disliked person.

stool-pigeon. A planted informer; a gambling-den decoy.

stork. A long-legged bird, purveying all human babies in the United States. The cabbage and rose bush methods have become slightly obscene; the biological is verboten. The stork, Santa Claus, and Yahweh live in St. George Washington's cherry tree.

stovepipe hat. High silk hat.

straddle. To pose on both sides of a question.

straight goods. The undiluted truth.

strap-hanger. Passengers permitted by public service corporations to exercise their clinging muscles instead of their sedentary anatomy.

strawberry blonde. Carrot-top; red haired woman.

stuck on, to be. To be fond of.

stuck up. Conceited, vain.

sucker. One easily imposed upon.

sugar. Flattering words; money, as in "a sugar-coated papa."

swag. Stolen goods, loot.

sweeten the pot. To enlarge one's holdings.

sweet on, to be. To be fond of.

sweetie, sweetums, sweet stuff. One beloved or favored.

sweet tooth. A liking for sweets.

swim, in the. In company with; in the current of popular fashions.

swing. To manage successfully.

swipe. To steal, especially a cheap article.

T.

table, to go to the. To partake of the Christian Communion; formerly of bread and wine, since the Volstead act of Uneeda Biscuits or Zuzus, and Canada Dry, Cherryola, Coca-Cola, or Cherry Smash.

tacky. Neglected, shabby, unkempt.

taffy. Sweet words, blarney, flattery.

take on. Get excited or hysteric over.

take the air. Go about one's business.

take the cake. Win, as at a cakewalk.

take it from me. Believe me.

take a shine to. Take a liking to.

take after. Resemble.

taken in, to be. To be deceived.

take off. To imitate or mimic.

talent, the. Persons in a profession.

talk big. To boast.

talk turkey. To talk business.

tall timber, the. The sticks; the backwoods.

tank. Heavy drinker, sponge.

tanktown. One horse burg, jerkwater town.

tart. A daughter of joy, a harlot, girl on the turf.

T. B. Consumption, tuberculosis.

teach one's grandmother to suck eggs. To lecture one's elders.

tea-fight. Tea-party, muffin-worry.

tear. Boisterous spree; "on a tear."

tenderfoot. A greenhorn, Easterner, in the West.

tenderloin. Choicest section of a city, in which theatres, gambling dens, etc., are located.

ten strike. A complete victory.

thing, the. The proper or fashionable thing.

think, I don't. Negatives what precedes:

"You're a gentleman, I don't think!"

third degree. Illegal police method of extorting lies, faked confessions, etc., by thuggery.

tickled to death, to be. To be highly pleased

tie, can you tie that? Can you equal that.

tight. Close, stingy; drunk.

tile loose, to have a. To be crazy.

tincan tourist, tincanner, Tin Can Town or City.

Ford tourists, living in a flivver there and here.

tin Lizzie, tin lizard, tincan, flivver, henry. A Ford.

toad-eater. Fawning parasite, sycophant, lick-spittle.

toddle. A dance; to depart, as "toddle along."

Tom, Dick, and Harry. Any of a crowd; people at large.

toodle-dy-oo, toodle-oo. Goodbye.

tophole. The acme of perfection.

toss or toss up. An even chance.

tote, tote a gun, tote fair. To carry.

touch. To borrow.

trail, to hit the. To be converted by a vulgar evangelist.

train with. To go with a person.

trap. Mouth.

tripe. Blah, flapdoodle, nonsense.

trot along. Depart.

trottery. Dance hall where shimmy, etc., is danced.

tumble to. To understand.

tum-tum, tuh-tuh. The stomach.

twaddle, twattle. Idle chatter, piffle, pibble-pabble.

23. Beat it.

U.

uncle. A pawnbroker; Uncle Sam.

up and doing. Energetic, go-getting.

unwritten law. Illegal custom allowing a man to bump off his wife's pal, or a woman to poke off her hubby's Lady Charitable.

Upper Crust. The so-called aristocratic class.

upper story. Vacant part of a house; the brain.

upstage. Snotty, snobbish.

up the flue, flume, or spout. Gone flooey; ruined.

V.

V or V spot. A five dollar bill.

vacuum. Entire void, especially mental.

vamoose. To leave pronto or quickly.

vamp, vampire. Seductress, a Theda.

virgin. A girl with a Presbyterian reputation; somewhat out of date.

W.

wad, wad of dough. Money collectively.

wages of sin. The price paid for breaking a divine or moral law; usually affluence, public esteem, success, and a marble mausoleum; unless the infraction has been picayune.

- walkover*. An easy or unopposed success.
- walking delegate*. Business agent of a labor union; the representative of capital rides.
- warm*. Heated with passion; as, warm member, warm baby.
- watch your step*. Watch out.
- weaker sex or vessel*. Used by men to describe women.
- weak end*. The brain.
- weak sister*. A pepless dame.
- wet*. Favoring alcohol and against prohibition.
- wet blanket*. A spoilsport.
- whangdoodle*. A mythical creature, akin to the gymnascutus, legs shorter on one side than the other, to let him feed on a hillside; nonsense.
- what's what*. The real or genuine thing.
- white-collar slave*. The class of clerks, as opposed to class-conscious labor.
- white mule, white lightning*. Greased lightning, mountain dew, or corn; illegal liquor.
- whopper-jawed*. Crazy.
- wicked*. Skilled; as, shake a wicked leg or limb.
- wiff*. The wife, the missus, the better two-thirds.
- willies, the*. The jimjams, blues, feeling of dislike.
- wild to*. Anxious or crazy to.
- wiseacre*. A know-it-all.
- wobbly*. Member of the I. W. W., the Industrial Workers of the World.

wow. A knockout, great success.

wrinkle. A smart dodge, a new trick.

write-up. Laudatory story for the press.

wrong box, wrong pew, in the. In a false predicament or wrong place.

Y.

Y. The Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Y. M. H. A., etc.

yap. To make noise; a hick, countryman.

yegg, yeggman. A traveling safe-blower.

yellow. Cowardly; sensational, as yellow journalism.

Z.

zero. A dud, an absolute blank mentally.

zip. Speed. Hence, zippy.

BASEBALL SLANG

A.

asleep at a bag. Base-runner caught off a base
average, batting average. Percentage of base hits.
at bat. The side on the offensive.

B.

backstop. The catcher; the wooden backstop.
back up. To field behind a teammate.
bag. A base, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.
balk. An incompleated delivery by the pitcher.
ball. A throw outside of the plate.
bang out a ball. Hit a pitched ball.
base hit. A hit permitting batter to reach first.
battery. Pitcher and catcher.
batting eye. Ability to hit.
beat out a hit. Outrun a throw to the base.
bean-ball. Ball pitched toward batter's head.
bean, to. To hit batter with a pitched ball.
boot a ball, to. To make an error.
bunt. A ball hit softly toward the infield.
busher. One from the bush league.

C.

casey, to do a. To fan out, to fail to make a hit.
catch off a base, catch napping. To be put out
 while loafing carelessly near a base.
charley horse. Sore muscles.
circuit. The four bases.
coach. To direct play from the sidelines.
connect, to. To hit the ball.
cop, to. To win a prize or game.
cover a base. To play close to base.
crack, to. To hit a ball.
cuddle the bag, to. To hug a base.
curve. A pitched ball that curves.
cut a base. To fail to touch a base.

D.

dauber is down. To be dejected.
delivery. A pitcher's method of throwing.
diamond. The whole baseball field; the infield.
die on base. To be on base when side is retired.
divvy. A share.
drive. A hard-hit ball.
drop, a. A pitched ball that curves downward.
dugout. The players' bench.

E.

error. A muff or kick.

F.

fan, to. To strike out.

fan. A rooter, enthusiast.

fadeaway. A ball deceptively slow.

feed 'em. To pitch to the batter.

farm out. To be sent to the minors.

fence, over the. Knocked out of the ball grounds.

first, the. The 1st inning. So 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.

field, to. To handle a batted ball.

fielder. An outfielder.

fill the bases, to. To occupy all bases.

first-bouncer. A ball on the first bounce.

fly ball. A ball knocked high.

fly out, to. To be put out by a caught high ball.

forced run. A run made by pitcher's passing a man with 3 on bases.

foul. A ball outside the 1st or 3rd base lines.

foul out. To be put out by a caught foul.

foul line. The 1st or 3rd base sideline.

foul tip. A glancing foul.

free pass to first. Four balls pitched to batter.

fungo. A ball batted up for practice.

G.

goose egg. Blank score.

grass-cutter. A grounder.

gum the game. To spoil the game.

hit and run. A play where, the moment the pitcher throws, base-runners run.

homer. A home-run, a circuit clout, a babe ruth.

home, home plate. The 4th base.

horsehide. The baseball.

hurl, to. To pitch.

hurler. Pitcher.

hug a base. To stay close to a base.

I.

in. A pitched ball that curves in.

infield. Part of the diamond bounded by the bases.

infielder. One of the basemen or the shortstop.

initial sack. First base.

innings. Division of baseball game.

inshoot. A pitched ball curving in.

J.

jaw the umpire. To scold back at the umpire.

jump ball. A pitched ball that hops upward.

K.

King of Swat. Babe Ruth.
kiss a ball. Connect for a hit.

L.

lay on it, to. To hit a ball hard.
lay one down, lay one down dead. To hit a bunt.
lean on the ball. To hit hard.
left on bases. To be on bases when a side is retired.
let a ball pass. To fail to strike at a pitched ball.
lines. Sidelines.
lob. Knock up an easy fly ball.

M.

make the circuit. Round the bases.
major league. One of the two larger leagues.
minor league. Any other league.
mound, pitcher's. Pitcher's stance.

N.

nail. To hit.
national pastime. Baseball.

O.

off a base, to play. To play some distance from a base.
out, to be. To fail to make a base safely.
out. A pitched ball curving out.
outshoot. A pitched ball shooting out.
outfield. The diamond beyond the three bases.
outfielder. Player stationed beyond the bases.

P.

pass, to. To give a batter four balls.
pat the ball. To hit, or hit lightly.
peg a man. To throw out a man on any base.
pigtail. To retrieve balls for the catcher.
pilfer a bag. To steal a base.
pinch hitter. One sent in to bat for another.
pill. The ball.
plate. The fourth base, home.
play safe on the bags. Not to take chances on a base.
poop out. To fly out.
pop up a fly. To knock an easy fly ball.
pop out. To be caught out on a fly.
put it over. To pitch over plate.

R.

receiver. The catcher.
receiving station. The catcher's position.
run it out. To attempt to beat a throw to first.

S.

- sack*. Any base, 1st, 2nd, 3rd.
sacrifice. A bunt to advance runner at expense of batter.
scorcher. A fast ground ball.
shag. To field batted balls for another.
short. Shortstop.
sidewheeler. Left-handed pitcher.
sidelines. Lines outside 1st and 3rd bases.
silo league. Bush league, sorghum belt league.
single. A one-base hit.
sizzler. A fast hit ball.
skyscraper. A high batted ball.
slam. To hit ball hard.
slide for bases. To hurl one's self toward a base.
sling. To pitch. Hence, slinger.
slugger. A hard hitter.
sock it on the nose. Hit it out hard.
southpaw. Sidewheeler, left-handed pitcher.
spit ball, spitter. A ball wet with saliva by pitcher.
spit ball artist. A pitcher using saliva.
sphere, spheroid. The baseball.
squeeze play. To lay down a bunt with runner on third.
steal a base. To advance a base without a hit ball advancing runner.
strike out. To retire batter with three strikes.
strike. A ball thrown over the plate.
sunfield. The right field.
swat. To hit out a ball.

T.

- tag*. To touch out a runner.
Texas leaguer. Ball hit safely between infield and outfield.
two-bagger. A hit ball giving runner two bases.
three-bagger. A hit ball giving runner three bases.

U.

- umps*. The umpire.

W.

- walk a batter*. To give a batter four balls.
warm up. To practice before entering game.
whiff. To fan, strike out.
wide one. A ball wide of the plate.
wind up, pitcher's. Pitcher's preliminary delivery
wing. The pitcher's arm; an arm.
winter league. Winter gossip about baseball.